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**Biennial Report**  
**OF**  
**The Eugenics Board**  
**of North Carolina**

JULY 1, 1942  
TO  
JUNE 30, 1944



R. EUGENE BROWN,  
*Secretary*



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## EUGENICS BOARD OF NORTH CAROLINA

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J. F. OWEN, M.D., Superintendent, State Hospital, Raleigh,  
*Chairman*

HARRY McMULLAN, Attorney General of North Carolina

CARL V. REYNOLDS, M.D., State Health Officer

ELLEN WINSTON, PH.D., Commissioner of Public Welfare

F. L. WHELPLEY, M.D., Superintendent, State Hospital,  
Goldsboro

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R. EUGENE BROWN, *Secretary*



## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

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*To his Excellency, J. MELVILLE BROUGHTON,  
Governor of North Carolina.*

DEAR SIR:

I have the honor of submitting herewith the report of the Eugenics Board of North Carolina for the biennial period dating from July 1, 1942 through June 30, 1944.

Sincerely yours,

J. F. OWEN, M.D.,  
*Chairman.*



# REPORT OF THE SECRETARY TO THE EUGENICS BOARD OF NORTH CAROLINA

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The North Carolina sterilization law provides for the sterilization or asexualization of mentally diseased, epileptic and feeble-minded persons when it is believed to be for the best interest of the mental, moral or physical improvement of the individual; or when it is believed to be for the public good; or when such individual would be likely, unless operated upon, to procreate a child or children who would have a tendency to serious physical, mental or nervous disease or deficiency.

There are many misconceptions of the purposes of eugenical sterilization. The operation for both men and women is now comparatively simple. It has one effect only—it prevents parenthood. It is not a punishment but, on the contrary, it is a protection to the individual as well as to society, and therefore should carry no stigma or humiliation. Sterilization is not a solution for behavior problems.

Sterilization permits patients, who would otherwise be confined to institutions during the fertile period of life, to return to their homes and friends.

The North Carolina law is based on the principle contained in the following quotations from *Eugenics* for March, 1930:

“We do not know precisely to what extent mental defects and psychopathic conditions are inherited. But we do know that on the whole, feeble-minded and insane persons who are permitted to propagate their kind, raise families in a most unfavorable home environment.”

The effects of asexualization are more drastic than those of sterilization. For this reason the Eugenics Board authorizes this operation only under unusual circumstances upon the specific recommendation of the examining physician.

During the biennial period ended June 30, 1944, a total of 269 sterilization operations were performed under authorization of the Eugenics Board. Three hundred and twenty-eight petitions for sterilization were presented to the Board for consideration during this period, and the Board authorized sterilization in 309 cases.

Only eleven cases were presented to the Board without the written consent of the parent, guardian, or next-of-kin during the biennial period. In these cases the parties concerned were given 15 days notice of an opportunity to be heard by the board. Hearings were held in only two cases (one rejected—one approved). Therefore, it can readily be seen that if the case for sterilization is properly presented, the cooperation of the family can be secured in most instances.

The members of the Eugenics Board have attended the monthly meetings regularly in person or through duly authorized representatives as provided by law. Dr. R. T. Stimpson of the State Board of Health has represented Dr. C. V. Reynolds, State Health Officer regularly. Honorable Harry McMullan, Attorney General, has been represented regularly by Mr. J. E. Tucker.

Mrs. W. T. Bost who resigned as Commissioner of Public Welfare, effective June 1, 1944, was succeeded by Dr. Ellen Winston. Mrs. Bost served as chairman of the Board from the time of its organization in 1935 until the time of her resignation at which time she was succeeded as chairman by Dr. J. F. Owen, superintendent of the State Hospital at Raleigh.

### FINANCIAL REPORT OF EUGENICS BOARD

ITEM	Expendi- tures 1943-44	Budget 1944-45	BUDGET REQUEST	
			1945-46	1946-47
1. Salaries	\$597.10	\$1,200.00	\$1,260.00	\$1,320.00
2. Supplies and materials	2.25	40.00	40.00	40.00
3. Postage, telephone and telegraph	35.15	90.00	90.00	90.00
4. Printing and binding	12.09	75.00	75.00	75.00
5. Subscriptions and dues	4.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
6. Equipment	.....	50.00	50.00	50.00
7. War bonus	.....	180.00	180.00	180.00
Total	\$650.59	\$1,640.00	\$1,700.00	\$1,760.00

TABLE 1

TOTAL NUMBER OF STERILIZATION OPERATIONS—BY ORIGIN OF PETITION AND TYPE OF OPERATION—JULY 1, 1942 THROUGH JUNE 30, 1944.

Origin of Petition	Vasectomy	Castration	Salpin- gectomy	Ovariectomy	Total
State institution .....	49	6	122	....	177
County institution.....	..	....	11	....	11
Non-institution.....	6	....	75	....	81
Total.....	55	6	208	....	269

TABLE 2

NUMBER OF CASES HANDLED BY BOARD DURING PAST BIENNIAL PERIOD COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS PERIODS.

Biennial Period	Cases Presented	Operations Authorized	Operations Performed
July 1, 1933-June 30, 1934.....	39	39	31
July 1, 1934-June 30, 1936.....	309	301	252
July 1, 1936-June 30, 1938.....	356	350	296
July 1, 1938-June 30, 1940.....	352	345	305
July 1, 1940-June 30, 1942.....	390	385	339
July 1, 1942-June 30, 1944.....	328	309	269

TABLE 3

EUGENIC STERILIZATION OPERATIONS PERFORMED IN NORTH CAROLINA 1929 TO JUNE 30, 1944

Year	Male		Female		Total
	Vasectomy	Castration	Salpingectomy	Ovariectomy	
1929.....	1	1	....	1	3
1930.....	....	2	10	5	17
1931.....	....	....	10	1	11
1932.....	....	9	7	2	18
1933.....	1	....	3	....	4
1934.....	7	8	45	1	61
1935.....	17	7	152	2	178
1936.....	11	1	86	....	98
1937.....	18	3	105	2	128
1938.....	53	3	144	2	202
1939.....	34	2	102	....	138
1940.....	45	2	112	....	159
1941.....	45	4	132	....	181
1942.....	32	4	112	....	148
1943.....	29	4	119	....	152
1944 to June 30.....	4	....	38	....	42
Grand Total.....	297	50	1,177	16	1,540
State institutional cases.....	248	37	644	7	936
County institutional cases.....	....	4	59	3	66
Non-institutional cases.....	49	9	474	6	538

TABLE 4

STERILIZATION OPERATIONS—STATE INSTITUTIONS

Year	Male		Female		Total
	Vasectomy	Castration	Salpingectomy	Ovariectomy	
1929.....	....	....	....	....	....
1930.....	....	1	4	4	9
1931.....	....	....	3	....	3
1932.....	....	9	5	1	15
1933.....	1	....	1	....	2
1934.....	5	8	31	1	45
1935.....	9	6	67	....	82
1936.....	10	....	46	....	56
1937.....	15	1	66	....	82
1938.....	48	2	101	1	152
1939.....	28	1	41	....	70
1940.....	36	....	58	....	94
1941.....	37	1	65	....	103
1942.....	29	4	65	....	98
1943.....	28	4	75	....	107
1944 to June 30.....	2	....	16	....	18
Total.....	248	37	644	7	936

TABLE 5  
STERILIZATION OPERATIONS—COUNTY INSTITUTIONS

Year	Male		Female		Total
	Vasectomy	Castration	Salpingectomy	Ovariectomy	
1929.....	.....	1	.....	1	2
1930.....	.....	1	2	.....	3
1931.....	.....	.....	3	1	4
1932.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1933.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1934.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1
1935.....	.....	1	10	.....	11
1936.....	.....	.....	5	.....	5
1937.....	.....	.....	3	1	4
1938.....	.....	.....	2	.....	2
1939.....	.....	.....	9	.....	9
1940.....	.....	.....	6	.....	6
1941.....	.....	1	4	.....	5
1942.....	.....	.....	7	.....	7
1943.....	.....	.....	4	.....	4
1944 to June 30.....	.....	.....	3	.....	3
Total.....	.....	4	59	3	66

TABLE 6  
STERILIZATION OPERATIONS—NON-INSTITUTIONAL

Year	Male		Female		Total
	Vasectomy	Castration	Salpingectomy	Ovariectomy	
1929.....	1	.....	.....	.....	1
1930.....	.....	.....	4	1	5
1931.....	.....	.....	4	.....	4
1932.....	.....	.....	2	1	3
1933.....	.....	.....	2	.....	2
1934.....	2	.....	13	.....	15
1935.....	8	.....	75	2	85
1936.....	1	1	35	.....	37
1937.....	3	2	36	1	42
1938.....	5	1	41	1	48
1939.....	6	1	52	.....	59
1940.....	9	2	48	.....	59
1941.....	8	2	63	.....	73
1942.....	3	.....	40	.....	43
1943.....	1	.....	40	.....	41
1944 to June 30.....	2	.....	19	.....	21
Total.....	49	9	474	6	538

TABLE 7

AGE, SEX AND TYPE OF OPERATION OF PERSONS STERILIZED AND ASEXUALIZED IN  
NORTH CAROLINA—1929 TO JUNE 30, 1944

Age	Vasectomy	Castration	Total Males	Salpin- gectomy	Ovari- ectomy	Total Females	Total
10-19*.....	116	16	132	634	10	644	776
20-29.....	108	20	128	384	3	387	515
30-39.....	54	12	66	148	3	151	217
40-49.....	15	1	16	11	....	11	27
Over 49.....	3	....	3	....	....	....	3
Unknown.....	1	1	2	....	....	....	2
Total....	297	50	347	1,177	16	1,193	1,540

\*Of the 776 cases in this group 81 were under 14—one age 9, one age 10, seven age 11, nineteen age 12, thirty age 13 and twenty-three age 14.

TABLE 8

STERILIZATION OPERATIONS—STATE INSTITUTIONS—BY INSTITUTION AND TYPE  
OF OPERATION—1929 TO JUNE 30, 1944

Institution	Male		Female		Total
	Vasectomy	Castration	Salpingectomy	Ovarietomy	
Caswell Training School.....	55	5	80	....	140
Eastern Carolina Training School.....	1	....	....	....	1
Samarcand Manor.....	....	....	204	4	208
State Farm Colony for Women..	....	....	9	....	9
State Hospital at Goldsboro.....	150	24	87	....	261
State Hospital at Morganton....	7	....	4	1	12
State Hospital at Raleigh.....	35	8	259	2	304
State School for the Deaf.....	....	....	1	....	1
Total.....	248	37	644	7	936

TABLE 9

STERILIZATION OPERATIONS WITH REFERENCE TO TYPE OF OPERATION AND RACE—  
1929 TO JUNE 30, 1944

Type of Operation	White	Negro	Total
Vasectomy.....	136	161	297
Castration.....	23	27	50
Salpingectomy.....	958	219	1,177
Ovarietomy.....	15	1	16
Total.....	1,132	408	1,540



TABLE 10

DISTRIBUTION OF STERILIZATION CASES WITH REFERENCE TO MENTAL DEFECT,  
ORIGIN OF PETITION AND MARITAL STATUS—1929 TO JUNE 30, 1944

Mental Defect as Shown in Petition for Sterilization	State Inst.	County Inst.	Non- Inst.	Total	Married	Single	Widowed, Divorced or Separated
Cerebral syphilis with mental deficiency.....	1	....	....	1	....	1	....
Cerebral arteriosclerosis.....	1	....	....	1	1	....	....
Congenital cerebral syphilis.....	1	....	....	1	1	....	....
Dementia praecox.....	126	....	5	131	59	65	7
Manic depressive psychosis.....	119	....	2	121	60	53	8
Psychosis with cerebral syphilis.....	1	....	....	1	1	....	....
Psychosis with psychopathic personality.....	2	....	....	2	....	2	....
Psychosis with epidemic encephalitis.....	1	....	....	1	....	1	....
Psychosis with hereditary syphilis.....	1	....	....	1	....	1	....
Psychosis with mental deficiency.....	44	....	1	45	9	33	3
Psychosis with syphilis.....	7	....	....	7	4	2	1
Psychosis undiagnosed.....	14	1	3	18	12	5	1
Psychopathic personality.....	14	....	2	16	3	13	....
Psychopathic personality with mental deficiency.....	1	....	1	2	....	2	....
Epilepsy.....	103	....	16	119	37	81	1
Epilepsy with mental deficiency...	43	5	18	66	9	54	3
Epilepsy with psychosis.....	10	....	2	12	2	10	....
Feeble-mindedness.....	447	60	488	995	85	874	36
Total.....	936	66	538	1,540	283	1,197	60









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